Process', an amount of US $ 7,67,198 has been paid to the Consultants till date. The expenditure on foreign travel is Rs. 39.59 lakh.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of State Agricultural Ministers

1922. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the State Agriculture Ministers from South was held in Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting along with other related matters standing the demand raised by the States Agriculture Ministers in the conference; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A Conference of State Agriculture Ministers from South States was held in Bangalore on 14.11.1995.

(b) The agenda of the Conference was as follows:

(i) Fixation of Minimum Retail Prices (MRPs) for decontrolled fertilizers.

(ii) Restoration of subsidy on P & K fertilizers.

(iii) Urea-policy issues.

(iv) Use of subsidised fertilizers for manufacture of mixtures.

(v) Inter-State coordinator Management.

(vi) Inter-State quality control measures of pesticides.

(vii) Mutual cooperation among State Seeds Corporations.

(c) As a result of the deliberation of the Agriculture Ministers from the Southern States the following resolutions were submitted to the Government of India in the form of a Memorandum.

(i) Policy on subsidy on Phosphatic/Potassic/Complex fertilizers to be restored at levels prevailing during 1991-92.

(ii) The present policy of control on urea at the present price level should be continued.

(iii) The use of subsidised urea for fertilizer mixture should be permitted.

(iv) Allotment of Railway wagons to Southern States should be made for movement of fertilisers on top priority, the availability in peak consumption periods should be ensured.

(v) A bold policy should be adopted for procurement of surplus sugar and the proposal of the State Government to expand the crushing capacity of the existing sugar factories besides setting up of additional sugar factories in the region should be considered.

The Memorandum is under consideration of the Government.

Exemption for New Drugs under DPCO

1923. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any exemption for New Drugs from the Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the number of years for which such exemption is granted to such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Under para 25 (2)(f) of the DPCO, 1995, a manufacturer of a new drug